

March 2004

NORTHERN COMMAND

SAFESTAT REPORT

Nevada Highway Patrol

Major Bob Wideman

Overview

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The Northern Command experienced an increase in the number of crashes investigated during March 2004 as compared to March 2003, but recorded a decrease in the number of crashes compared to the previous month. March 2003 was an extraordinarily successful month of crash reduction effort, with a record low number of crashes investigated. While March 2004 was not quite as successful, a reduction of 4.4% was achieved from the number recorded in February 2004. An improvement in weather during the month played an important part in that success. A trend has been identified in the number of crashes with injuries being investigated. Closer examination of these crashes revealed that 76% of those involved injuries that were claimed by those involved, but had no observable indication of injury. While persons who claim injuries are taken at their word, the trend suggests that such injuries are most likely very minor.

Total enforcement levels are off by 20% from the levels documented one year ago, but are up by 5.8% from levels recorded during February 2004. Several factors combine to produce these results. A review of staffing levels reveals that available work hours were down from last year by 19%, a figure very close to the enforcement numbers. In addition, the number of persons arrested increased by 59.5%. Arrests are time consuming and leave less time available for proactive enforcement.

During the month of March, the Northern Command implemented the use of the automated traffic accident reporting form (NHP5) linked to the Nevada Citation and Accident Tracking System (NCATS). The report form contains substantially more information, thus requiring more time to complete. The automated features of the form, coupled with difficulties associated with normal programming development, have caused additional enforcement time to be lost.

Commercial Enforcement efforts in the Northern Command were outstanding during March 2004. Improvements in all areas of commercial enforcement were dramatic. The total number of safety inspections performed increased by 58.4% compared to last year and by 35.9% compared to last month. Overweight enforcement also improved dramatically compared to both last year and last month. The commercial enforcement unit is on-pace to meet all of its enforcement goals for federal fiscal year 2004.

NORTHERN COMMAND

CRASH ANALYSIS AND OVERVIEW

Northern Command						
	March-04		March 2003	% Change		February 2004
						% Change
Total Crashes	329		293	12.3%		344
Property Crashes [including commercial vehicles]	219		197	11.2%		245
Injury Crashes [including commercial vehicles]	107		92	16.3%		95
Fatal Crashes [including commercial vehicles]	3		4	-25.0%		4
DUI Crashes [DUI charged]	16		24	-33.3%		12
Total persons killed in fatal crashes	5		4	25.0%		5
Total drivers killed without seatbelts	2		2	0%		2
Total passengers killed without seatbelts	1		0	100%		1
Total drivers killed with seatbelts	0		1	-100%		1
Total passengers killed with seatbelts	0		1	-100%		0
Total persons killed - seatbelts not applicable	2		na	200%		0
Total number of commercial vehicle crashes	8		6	33.3%		12
Property crashes involving commercial vehicle	5		4	25.0%		10
Injury crashes involving commercial vehicle	3		2	50.0%		2
Fatal crashes involving commercial vehicle	0		0	0%		0

Percentage of fatal crashes to total crashes 0.9%

Percentage of DUI crashes to total crashes 4.9%

Percentage of persons killed *without* seatbelts to total persons killed 100%

Seat belts applicable

Percentage of commercial vehicle crashes to total crashes 2.4%

Analysis

Reno Urban Crash Analysis

The Reno Urban area had a slight increase of "Total Crashes." However, the Reno Urban area had a decrease in property crashes compared to last month which was mainly due to better weather. The injury crashes increased by 40%. The Reno Urban area had one fatal accident that resulted in one death. This was a decrease compared to last month and compared to March 2003.

Looking at the whole crash picture for the Reno Urban area, it shows that the majority of the crashes are occurring during commuter hours and during the week. Once again, the majority of the injury crashes occurred during the swing shift commute (4:00pm through 6:00 pm). Out of the total 70 of injury crashes for the Reno Urban area, 76% of the injury crashes were "claimed injuries." "Claimed injuries" means that there were no visually apparent injuries and the citizen claimed that they are hurt.

Reno Urban has concentrated enforcement efforts on the central area of Reno where the crashes have occurred and during the high crash times. The construction zone lane changes implemented by N.D.O.T. and the additional Clear Acre / N. McCarran project has contributed to additional crashes for both morning and afternoon commutes.

Fernley/Fallon Crash Analysis

Compared to last month total crashes were reduced from 45 to 39, or 13.3%. Property crashes were reduced from 31 to 27, or 12.9%. Injury crashes were reduced from 14 to 10, or 28.6%.

The reduction was more significant over the same month last year. Total crashes were reduced from 59 to 39, or 33.9%. Property crashes were reduced from 35 to 27, or 22.9%. Injury crashes were reduced from 31 to 10, or 52.4%.

Fatality crashes were reduced from 3 to 2. One fatal accident involved a motorcyclist who by vehicle design did not have a seatbelt on. The other fatal involved a passenger who had the seatbelt fastened behind him/her. Commercial vehicle crashes were reduced from 8 to 4.

Carson/Tahoe/Minden Crash Analysis

The district showed a decrease from 104 to 89, or 14.4% in total crashes from the previous month. Property crashes dropped from 72 to 62, or 13.9%. Injury crashes dropped from 31 to 27, or 12.9%. The area had 1 fatal crash last month and none this month. The district dropped 1 crash or 1.1% compared to last year. There were only 2 DUI crashes this month, with 4 last month. The district continues to be very low in commercial crashes showing none this month.

S.I.R.T. (Severe Incident Response Team)

During this rating period, March 2004 S.I.R.T. assisted in the investigation of two fatal traffic collisions. A third fatal collision occurred during this rating period, that was handled by a Fernley reconstructionist. Two of the three fatal collisions involved motorcycles. The first one was from a failed to yield right of way, where a pickup pulled out from a stop sign into the path of the motorcycle. The second was a single motorcycle, single rider that lost control. Alcohol is suspected in that case. The third collision was a single vehicle roll over at IR80 MM 107. The preliminary investigation on each investigation does not lead to felony prosecution.

Reno Urban Motors

With the completion of training and two more officers available to handle crashes, as well as bikes becoming available with new radios, it is not surprising that overall crash investigations by the unit are up 219% compared to last month, Property damage crashes are up 167%, from 12 to 32 and injury crashes are up 375%, from 4 to 19.

29 of the 51 crashes handled, or 57%, occurred in the McCarran loop core area. Most of the month the officers were in cars because the bikes were not yet equipped with radios. This explains the relatively low percentage of core area crashes.

32 of the 51 crashes, or 63%, were property damage. 19 of the 51, or 37% were injury. Of the 19 injury crashes, 8 or 42%, were transported to the hospital. Of the 8 transported, 5, or 63% had claimed injuries.

12 crashes, or 24% occurred during the morning commute hours of 0600-0800 hours.

13, or 25%, occurred during the lunchtime commute of 1130-1330 hours.

6, or 12%, occurred during the afternoon commute of 1600-1800 hours.

Of the core area crashes, 16, or 55% occurred during commute hours. 48% of the core area crashes occurred on IR80, 52% occurred on IR580. Of the non-core crashes, 9% occurred on IR 80, 41% occurred on IR 580 and 50% occurred on other roadways and highways.

The high crash day was Monday, with 24% of the total. Tuesday was next with 22%. Wednesday and Saturday had 16% each. 14% of the crashes occurred on Friday. Thursday was the low accident day with 10%.

Of the 51 crashes handled:

One was caused by reckless driving and one was caused by a DUI.

31, or 61% were Due Care/ Following Too Close.

6, or 12% were travel lane violations.

5, or 10% were failure to yield.

6, or 12% had other causes.

Additionally tracked statistics:

Number of accidents in the core area:	29 of 51	57%
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Number of accidents removed from the highway:	37 of 51	73%
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Number of accidents that could not be removed:	14 of 51	27%
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Number of secondary crashes:	1
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Average crash response time:	5.1 minutes
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Spare unit time:	240 hours of 485	49%	(Awaiting radio installs)
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FIELD ENFORCEMENT ACTIVITY

Northern Command	March 2004		March 2003	% Change		February 2004	% Change
DUI arrests from crashes ##	16		24	-33.3%		12	33.3%
DUI arrests <i>prior</i> to crashes ##	73		127	-42.5%		68	7.4%
Other Arrests	444		654	-32.1%		367	21.0%
Total persons arrested (DUI included) ##	201		126	59.5%		153	31.4%
Speed violations	2115		2656	-20.4%		1883	12.3%
Hazardous moving violations	659		1092	-39.7%		643	2.5%
Occupant restraint violations * ##	391		519	-24.7%		378	3.4%
Total violations [above violations included]	5313		6646	-20.1%		5021	5.8%
Commercial Enforcement							
Hazardous moving violations - citations/arrests	10		9	11.1%		16	-37.5%
Other traffic violations - citations/arrests	25		73	-65.8%		13	92.3%
Total safety inspections [level 1, 2, 3, 4, & 6]	757		478	58.4%		557	35.9%
Terminal inspections [level 5] CR only							
Total safety violations -- citation	320		271	18.1%		223	43.5%
Total safety violations -- repair order	1607		353	355.2%		1169	37.5%
Total vehicles placed "Out of Service"	94		42	123.8%		34	176.5%
Total drivers placed "Out of Service"	28		17	64.7%		3	833.3%
Total school buses inspected	151		80	88.8%		88	71.6%
Total school buses placed "Out of Service"	29		10	190.0%		17	70.6%
Total trucks weighed	558		411	35.8%		83	572.3%
Total overweight citations	53		31	71.0%		28	89.3%
Total dyed fuel inspections	607		478	27.0%		457	32.8%
Total dyed fuel citations	2		0	200%		3	-33.3%

* *Seat belt and child restraint*

Analysis**Reno Urban**

Looking at the activity for the Reno Urban Traffic section, results were good taking into account two factors.

- 1- A loss of 8% in total available manpower.
- 2- An increase of 20 more injury accidents which take more time to investigate.

Although down by 18 total D.U.I. arrests, Reno Urban also had more D.U.I. arrest from accidents in this reporting period. This may be an indicator that there was more compliance by the motoring public. An increased in the total number of persons arrested taking time away from other activities. However, statistics were up in speed violations, hazardous moving violations and only slightly down in occupant restraint and total violations. With the two loss of time issues mentioned above, activity was good compared to last month.

Fernley/Fallon

The enforcement efforts of the district remain steady over last month and increased over last year. The district did make more arrests this month, which reduced the amount of time dedicated to patrol efforts. Total enforcement increased from 1354 to 1367, or 1%, with a drop of 1.5% in total time worked. The district continued to improve over last year. Total violation increased from 1280 to 1367, or 6.8%.

Carson/Tahoe

Enforcement efforts continue to increase, especially on day shift. The average trooper on day shift wrote a total of 125.3 violations this month including arrests. Overall enforcement increased from 1335 to 1517, or 13.6% over last month. There was a drop of 19% from last year, but there were 30% fewer troopers working the road this month, than last year. Other arrest increased greatly from 37 to 103. DUI's also increased over last month by an impressive 92%. Seatbelt citations continue to be stressed and increased over last month by 23.3%.

Commercial

Total arrested persons by Commercial Enforcement were 2 for the month of March. This is a 200% increase over last month and a 75% decrease over last year's activity. Speed violations were decreased by 78.6% over last year and 25% over last month's activity. Hazardous moving violations were increase by 16.7% over last year's activity and decreased over last month's activity by 41.7%. Occupant restraint violations remain the same from one year to the next in monthly activity. Total other traffic violations and citations/arrests increased over last month's activity by 22.2% and decreased over last year's activity by 55.1%. Total Safety Inspections increased over last year's activity and last month's activity by 58.4% and 35.9% respectively. Total safety violations/citations increased over last year's activity as well as last month's activity by 18.1% and 41.6% respectively. Total vehicles placed out of service increased over last year's activity and last month's activity by 91.8% and 176.5% respectively. Total drivers placed out of service increased over last year's activity and last month's activity by 75.0% and 833.3% respectively.

Reno Urban Motors

The motor squad averaged 4.58 traffic stops per hour and 3.78 citations per hour. All officers are on five eight hour shifts.

The motor officers worked a total of 89 days in this reporting period. A total of 50 crashes were investigated, 130 motorist assists conducted, 667 traffic stops, 461 citations issued, for an average of 7.5 contacts per day, 1 DUI arrest and 8 other misdemeanor arrests.

STAFFING AND WORK HOURS

STAFFING	March 2004	Staffed Positions March 2003	Administrative Assignment	Field Operations	Positions Vacant	Vacancy Rate Percentage
Traffic [Tpr. & Sgt.]	89	78	18	70	1	1.1%
Commercial [Tpr. & Sgt.]	18	19	1	16	1.0	5.6%
Commercial CVSI	3	33	0	3	0.0	0.0%
BELOW WORK HOURS ARE FIELD OPERATIONS PERSONNEL ONLY						
WORK HOURS LOST	March 2004		March 2003	% Change	February 2004	% Change
Annual leave	487.65		714.5	-31.7%	430.50	13.3%
Compensatory leave	461.5		510.85	-9.7%	294.60	56.7%
Sick Leave [personal and family]	844.75		986.55	-14.4%	809.00	4.4%
Military leave	589		30	1863.3%	549.00	7.3%
Holiday off	0		0	0	156.00	-15600%
Training	1317.5		636.78	106.9%	1289.82	2.2%
Administrative leave	18		0	1800%	64.00	-71.9%
Leave without pay	0		0	0%	0	0%
Total work hours lost	3718.48		2848.68	30.5%	3765.92	-1.3%
OVERTIME	March 2004		March 2003	% Change	February 2004	% Change
Paid overtime claimed	965.97		1126.8	-14.3%	1137.92	-15.1%
Compensatory overtime claimed	161.92		194.17	-16.6%	164.08	-1.3%
Total overtime hours	1127.88		1320.9	-14.6%	1302.00	-13.4%
TOTAL HOURS WORKED	March 2004		March 2003	% Change	February 2004	% Change
Number of authorized positions x 173 hours*	15397.0		17300	-11.0%	15743.00	-2.2%
Work hours lost	3718.48		2848.68	30.5%	3765.92	-1.3%
Overtime	1127.88		1320.9	-14.6%	1302.00	-13.4%
Total hours worked	12806.4		15772.22	-18.8%	13279.08	-3.6%

* 173 hours based upon 2080 work hours per year divided by 12 months

Analysis

Reno Urban

The staffing levels dropped by one trooper position compared to last month. We continue to have several troopers not working the road due to their assignments in backgrounds, military leave and administrative duties. Annual and compensatory leave were both up as compared to last month. The usage of sick leave was increased by 21%. Overtime showed a decrease compared to last month and last year

Fernley/Fallon

The staffing for the district remains the same. A trooper remains assigned to assist the background investigation unit. Total work hours lost increased by 29.5%, mostly due a rise of 82% in training time. Overtime increased by 40.6%. Total hours worked increased by 4.5% over last year. However, the gain was only due to overtime which usually does not correlate to increased enforcement activity.

Carson/Tahoe

The district cut work hours lost by 50.2%. The troopers worked 8.7% more hours than last month, but 14.9% less than last year. As stated previously in this report we had 30% fewer troopers working the road this month compared to last year. Sick leave was also cut greatly with the return of an officer to partial duty. An officer's return from military duty cut the military leave hours lost.

Commercial

Commercial Enforcement is operating at 83.3% of the authorized. As noted in past safe stat reports, and as training is always an asset to our Division, several courses are needed to enhance the current, more seasoned Commercial Troopers. Although refresher courses are not available, full courses are, and with the ever changing Commercial Motor Carrier Laws as well as State and Federal Regulations it would benefit the department to send Commercial Troopers back through these courses every few years.

During the month of March, Annual Leave decreased by 85.3% from last year and 22% from last month. Compensatory time increased over last year as well as by 86.4% over last month. Sick leave decreased by 25.3 % from last year and increased by 5.5% from last month. Total work hours lost decreased over last year as well as decreased over last month's activity.

March's activity for over time paid, increased over last year's activity and decreased by 47.0% from last month's activity. Compensatory overtime claimed decreased from last year and decreased by 56.2% from last month's activity.

MCSAP Training given was 94.08 hours. MCSAP training received was 108 hours.
Non-MCSAP training given was 110 hours. Non-MCSAP training received was 39.58 hours.

RATIOS – ACCIDENT AND ENFORCEMENT

ACCIDENT RATIOS		March 2004
Ratio of crashes per Traffic position		
Total		4.7
Property		3.13
Injury		1.53
Fatal		0.04
DUI		0.23
Commercial vehicle		0.11
Ratio of deaths per fatal crash		1.67
without seatbelts		1.0
with seatbelts		0

FIELD ENFORCEMENT

Ratio of enforcement per Traffic position		
DUI arrests from crashes		0.23
DUI arrests <i>prior</i> to crashes		1.04
Other Arrests		6.34
Total persons arrested (DUI included)		2.87
Speed violations		30.21
Hazardous moving violations		9.41
Occupant restraint violations		5.59
Total violations		75.9

RATIOS – COMMERCIAL ENFORCEMENT**INSPECTION / ENFORCEMENT RATIOS**

March 2004

Ratio of inspections and enforcement per Commercial position

Hazardous moving violations - citations *		0.6
Other traffic violations - citations *		1.6
Total safety inspections [all levels]		39.8
Terminal inspections TIP		0
Total safety violations -- citation *		20.0
Average safety violations per inspection -- citation		0.4
Total safety violations -- repair order		84.6
Average safety violations per inspection -- repair order		2.1
Total vehicles placed "Out of Service"		4.9
Average vehicles placed OOS per inspection		0.1
Total drivers placed "Out of Service"		1.5
Average drivers placed OOS per inspection		0
Total school buses inspected		7.9
Total school buses placed "Out of Service"		1.5
Total trucks weighed *		34.9
Total overweight citations *		3.3
Total dyed fuel inspections *		37.9
Total dyed fuel citations *		0.1

* Commercial sworn only

ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES

Front Office:

The staff serviced 198 counter customers, with 117 accident reports being given out and 41 office reports being taken. The staff received and processed Seventy-five arrest reports, and received 344 accident reports. Citation books issued, increased from 22 in February to 88 in March. The increase in the number of citation books issued is due to the 6-month supply of cites arriving the first week of March. Interviews for the vacant position in the front office were conducted on March 17th. A new AAI starts employment on Tuesday, April 6th; she will perform the outgoing accident requests as well as film duties.

Evidence:

The section was able to dispose of 44 adjudicated items this reporting period, down 14 from February. The number of items submitted increased from 69 in February to 92 in March even though the number of cases decreased from 45 to 31 respectively.

Court Warrants:

The section had a busy month in the area of Warrant Transport/Bookings; there were thirty-five transports this month compared to thirty in February 2004. The number of hours spent on Armory duties increased as well as the command is continuing with the annual inspection of division issued weapons.

Administrative Assistants assigned to the section entered 831 warrants in March and received 613 new warrants. This increase represents a 22% increase compared to the 504 new warrants that were received in February.

Training:

The coordinator scheduled twelve employees to attend a customized computer class, scheduled a RADAR refresher course and scheduled Defensive Tactics for the month of May. EVOC instructor training, as well as dates for training Northern Command personnel in EVOC were addressed. The coordinator provided 24 hours of Defensive Tactics training for the DPS Academy class.

Work hours for the sworn section decreased this month compared to February 2004, 361 hours compared to 477 hours. The decrease was due to increase in annual leave, compensatory leave and training hours used. Overtime increased by approximately 18 hours. The overtime increase was mainly due to the training hours. The civilian staff decreased overtime by approximately 39% or 35 hours this period. The total hours worked in March 2004 compared to February 2004 only differs by 10 hours.

AIRCRAFT OPERATIONS

Below is a comparative summary of N111HP flight activities in the Northern and Central commands for the month of March, 2004.

Total hours flown	This Month	Last Month	Change	Last Year	Change
Time Over Sites	23.5	13.4	+75%	22.2	+6.4%
Time Enroute to Sites	8.6	3.8	+126%	15.4	-44%
Prisoner Transports (5).	17.3	2.0	+765%	-	+100%
Prisoner Extradition	-	-	-	-	-
Personnel Transports	-	-	-	-	-
Maintenance	1.6	-	+100%	-	+100%
Pilot Training	2.5	-	+100%	13.5	+100%
Observer Training	-	-	-	-	-
Misc.	-	0.9	-100%	6.8	-100%
Total	53.5	20.1	-	11.8	+17%
Enforcement missions flown	9	5	+80%	9	-
Total enforcement activity	326	187	+74%	263	+24%
Activity per flight hour	13.9	13.9	-	11.8	+17%

COMMUNICATIONS CENTER

Dispatch has not made any significant changes to our way of utilizing the 800MHz radio system. Operators continue to track and log all noted problem areas and reports to radio shops on a daily basis. Previous plans to transfer communications functions from Central Command to Northern Command have ceased at this time.

There have been minor upgrades to CAD which have enhanced the system by including some new type codes, etc. Work continues to progress in creating a standard training manual for statewide consistency in utilizing the CAD system.

Staffing:

Total work hours lost increased by almost 20% primarily due to an additional vacancy in dispatch as of March 1, 2004. Compensatory time went up by 25%; however, annual leave and sick leave were down significantly. There was also no training hours lost during March.

Dispatch has 3 vacant positions at this time which has created an increase of overtime hours by almost 25%. A list is currently being established by State Personnel and interviews should begin shortly to bring our staffing up to authorized level.

Training:

Two PSD I's continued training throughout the month of March. Both employees are scheduled for release at the end of March, with a PSD I being released as a Call taker.

Our PSDV attended two weeks of training in March including first line supervision and NCIC/ATAC training at the academy.

PUBLIC INFORMATION EDUCATION OFFICE

The month of March was a very busy month in the Public Information Education Office. There were a total of 7 press releases to the media, 2 of which were related to the first two Amber Alerts for this calendar year. In each incident, the victim was located unharmed. Additionally, there were 5 print articles in the Reno Gazette-Journal, 1 radio interview, and 4 television news interviews regarding other topics/accidents.

On each Tuesday at 1600 hours, the Public Information Education Office conducted its weekly radio show called "Trooper Talk" on AM 1400. Topics included Motorcycle Enforcement, SIRT Team, the role of the Chaplain, Commercial Enforcement and Warrants. Each of the topics had a representative speaker. The Public Information Education Office also participated/coordinated the 5 daily radio traffic reports with the same radio station.

In addition to the media events, Public Information Education Officer represented the Northern Command as an Honor Guard member at the former Governor O'Callaghan funeral in Las Vegas. The Public Information Education Office also facilitated instructing 3 driver's education classes and worked with REMSA at a child seat installation clinic.

PROJECTS / ACTION PLANS

Reno Urban

Aggressive “Bowl Patrol” will continue during commuter times. As always, traffic stops in the bowl area during these times will be encouraged to be moved off the freeway to prevent accident from passing motorist. While on the “Bowl Patrol” Troopers will strive for visibility. We are at full strength with six motorcycle units on special squads. Three will be on Day shift and three will work on an early swing shift. Their priority will be enforcement and responding to crashes in the bowl area and the construction zones during high commute times. This will hopefully relieve the car units to work outside the perimeter of the core area to step up the enforcement in these areas.

SIRT

S.I.R.T. was attempting to start on the new lesson plan for intermediate accident investigation. This class will up-date our previous tech A.I. lesson plan which is outdated. This assignment has been delayed slightly by the current fatal investigations.

Sgt. Swain is finalizing the SIRT hit and run policy for implementation.

COMMERCIAL

Check sites that need repair – Garson. This site is in need of asphalt repair. NDOT has been notified and will advise the region of their finding in the near future.

Five (5) Commercial Troopers received new computers to replace their old computers. The old computers were utilizing Windows 95 and 98 programs and needed to be updated.

Strike team is slotted to begin in April.

Commercial Commanders meeting’s are scheduled for May.

The 72-hour Check-Site is scheduled for June 8, 9, 10th in Elko, NV. Preparations are already being made for rooms, as there is a mining convention that week.

Federal Projects is conducting inventory throughout the month of April.

COMMUNICATIONS

The Department of Public Safety Division of Emergency Management is continuing plans to build a new facility in Carson City, which will house the Northern Command Dispatch Center.

National Dispatcher’s Appreciation week is coming up in April and the dispatchers are beginning plans for a week of celebration.